

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-21 have been rejected over Kuroda et al in view of Arita et al. This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of claims 1, 11, and 16 together with the following remarks.

As discussed by the applicant in the previous response of January 27, 2006, rather than having a capacitor with latticed metal regions that include crossing metal leads, Kuroda et al. disclosed a capacitor constructed from a series of overlying electrode plates. The plates are all essentially of the same geometry, but are rotated 90° relative to each other as shown by Kuroda et al. in Figs. 3(A) and 3(B), and Fig. 4 and designated as elements (10) and (11). In the instant office action, however, the Examiner asserted that the structure (10) of Kuroda et al. is a latticed region. The Examiner further asserted that Kuroda et al. depicts overlying metal sheets in which liner portions are uninterrupted by openings. (Office Action page 12). Under the Examiner's interpretation of Kuroda et al., the electrode plates (10) and (11) include pathways, illustrated by the Examiner in the Examiner's annotated reconstruction of Fig. 8 appearing at page 2 of the instant office action. The Examiner apparently regards these imaginary liner portions are leads.

Although the applicant disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the electrode plates disclosed by Kuroda et al., the applicants have amended their independent claims to distinguish the recited latticed metal regions from the Examiner's interpretation of Kuroda et al. In particular, claim 1 now recites that the crossing metal leads of the first cohesive latticed metal region have a width less than or equal to the distance between the edge regions of the openings and the electrically conductive regions. This language follows directly from the recitation of a "latticed" metal region in which a "lattice" is considered an arrangement of structurally independent leads in a regular periodic pattern. Following the amendment, claim 1 recites that the lattice

includes crossing metal leads that have a particular width in relation to the openings and the conductive regions within the openings. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended fully distinguishes over the actual structure disclosed by Kuroda et al. and the interpretation of this structure asserted by the Examiner.

Claims 2-10 are allowable in view of their direct or indirect dependence from claim 1.

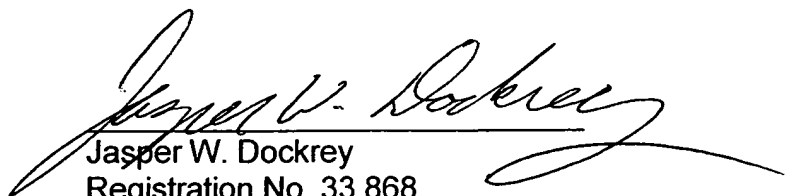
Claims 11 and 16 have also been amended to recite that the metal leads have a particular geometry and relationship with the openings and the electrically conducted regions within the openings.

Claims 12-15 are allowable in view of their dependence from claim 11, and claims 17-21 are allowable in view of their direct or indirect dependence from claim 16.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney in the event the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of the applicant's amendment or response.

The applicant has made a novel and non-obvious contribution to the art of semiconductor component design. The claims at issue fully distinguish over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is no earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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